

THE ST. JOSEPH OBSERVER

FRANK FREYTAG
Editor and Publisher.

811 EDMOND STREET,
TELEPHONE..... MAIN 595
Business or Editorial.

TERMS OF SUBSCRIPTION
Per Year.....\$1.00
Advertising Rates on Application.

Address All Communications to
THE OBSERVER
811 Edmond St. St. Joseph, Mo.

Entered at the Postoffice in St. Joseph, Missouri, as Second Class Mail Matter.
24

100,000,000 BACK OF WILSON

A long step nearer to actual war was taken Saturday when President Wilson gave the German ambassador his passports and severed friendly relations with the great empire which Bernstorff represented.

And there was no haste on the part of President Wilson in taking the step which may mean so much to the future of the United States, and that self same time of deliberation and cool thinking has put every one of the hundred millions of people of the United States squarely behind him—and there we will stand as one man no matter what comes, war or woe.

President Wilson, when the fatal note came, took many hours for deliberation and reflection two of those hours on the golf links. He gave many hours to consultation with other leaders of the American people in both the legislative and the executive branches of government. He studied the expressions of newspaper and public opinion coming from all sections of the country. He was long closeted alone with his conscience, and as he is a devout man we may be sure he sought guidance of his God as to his duty toward his country and toward humanity in this dreadful crisis. The result of it all was the decision to give von Bernstorff his passports, recall Gerard from Berlin, and prepare for eventualities.

It is hardly possible for the public to realize with what agony of spirit the president reached his momentous decision for we know something of his intense devotion to peace, his Christian and scholarly horror of war, and his unrelenting struggles to keep his country free from the present awful contest. We know how unusual and dramatic were his recent efforts to hurry the day of peace in Europe as the surest means of preventing the spread of the red flames of war to the shores of free and peace-loving America. While his decision to sever diplomatic relations was not, in itself, a confession that all his efforts had failed, he was obliged to admit to himself, in reaching it, that war has crept so near that it is scorching our faces.

Never more than at the present is it a time for cool heads and temperate speech in this great America of ours. As yet we are not in war, although it is well known that almost invariably heretofore when such a step as President Wilson has now taken it has resulted in war—but it does not necessarily follow that the precedent will control this time—as has many precedents which Woodrow Wilson has shattered. Much will depend—rather, perhaps everything will depend on Germany's future course. The sinking of American vessels, the sacrifice of American lives on the open sea without warning and ruthlessly, would in all probability be fatal to peace. But if the imperial government, warned and sobered in the last moment by the firm stand America has taken in defense of its honor and its plain rights, should so administer its submarine policy as not to do violence to those rights, war may yet be avoided.

As patriots it is the duty of all of us to look to the President and Congress to lead us, and to follow where they lead. We know our hands are clean and our consciences clear. We have tried to do our duty as a neutral. We have violated no laws. We have trampled on no nation's rights. We have coveted none of their land or goods. We have stood for the rights of humanity. We have striven with all our strength to put an end to the slaughter, urging peace terms that would do justice to all. If, in spite of it all, we are to be forced into a war not of our seeking, we may face the future with the serene faith that goes with a righteous cause backed by the devotion of a hundred million people.

HUNTING A PLACE TO START

Every indication of the past few months go to show that the Republican party intends to make its next campaign on the tariff—and it proposes to make a vigorous one, but how it can get anywhere no one seems to know.

The first move is to try to break into the solid south and the first step in that direction has already been taken when the Tariff League met last week in its thirty second annual

convention and Charles A. Farwell of Louisiana was elected president of that bunch of tariff howlers. The plan they figure through this move is that they can influence some of the southern states by promising a high tariff on sugar, and adding to the textile imports on cotton and expect to get a foothold in those states where the great cotton mills are located. They say if they had carried a single southern state in the last election they would have won the fight and protectionists would have been in power again. If the old confederates of the south will join the entrenched interests of New England, they feel that victory is sure.

Their greatest noise maker just now is the granting of a shell contract to England because the government could get them \$200 each, cheaper than they could from the protected interests in this country and they say that proves that the tariff should be increased. That argument, however, is not very convincing, for the answer is if a foreign country, engaged in the greatest war ever known, and paying now a very much higher scale of wages than that which prevailed in peace conditions, is able to underbid and take from American manufacturers the contract for supplying projectiles for American cannon, it only proves that the steel trust prices are extortionate. The Tariff League idea seems to be that the government as well as the people should be forced to pay extortionate prices to steel and other trusts for everything that they manufacture. The League is very bitter toward Secretary Daniels. It has said of him: "For four years Secretary of the Navy Daniels has been a vexation; now he is becoming an actual menace. His successful advocacy of a government armor plate plant was a piece of consummate folly. His award of the armor-piercing shell contract to a British munitions concern was worse than folly—it was insanity."

STANDARD OIL WINS EVERY TIME

Any way that you can fix it or any way that you can figure it, Uncle Jawa D's Standard Oil always comes out of any disaster a winner, no matter if everyone else loses.

The latest loss with which it was affected was the destruction of the Rumanian oil fields in which Uncle Jawa and his Standard had large holdings. Now Uncle Jawa's spokesman announces that "a guaranty has been given by the Entente Governments, inasmuch as the Rumanian Commander-in-Chief and the Rumanian Prime Minister concurred with the British Military Commission in the destruction of the wells, refineries and stocks of the various oil companies operating there."

That the destruction of the property was complete is admitted, but there remains a good deal of doubt as to the total money loss. It is placed at \$150,000,000 by the British authorities and at \$300,000,000 by the Germans. The largest individual loss is thought to fall on the Standard Oil Company.

It is acknowledged that the work of the British military commission was complete. The forces of the commission had a ten days' start of the expected retreat of the Rumanians and Russians. It was an easy thing to destroy a well. A small amount of nitroglycerin was lowered about fifty feet in the well and exploded. While the wells were destroyed, the field itself is only temporarily put out of production. The field can be restored by the sinking of new wells, but that takes time. Standard Oil will not only be paid for the destruction of its wells, but the shortage of oil caused by the elimination of that field which produced 15,000,000 barrels annually will enable it to raise prices for all its European customers. With Standard Oil it seems that it is always: "Heads I win, tails you lose."

SENORITAS DIDN'T WANT A BATH

The weight of the problem which confronted President Wilson in relation to the Mexican situation is more plainly shown each day. It is very easy to understand that any patriot may become a trifle incensed when his country is invaded, or when he thinks that a stronger nation is overbearing or tyrannical in its attitude, but it has remained for our lovely friends the Mexicans to start a fight rather than take a bath!

Of course, there are some features of the near-riot at the Mexican end of the El Paso-Juarez bridge which tend to justify the peevishness of the señoritas who refused to submit to the quarantine ablutions "for persons of unclean appearance." For instance, it was rumored among these dusky maidens that they were to be washed in gasoline. Never having enjoyed the merry pastime of caring for an automobile, they naturally rebelled. Any car owner would have cheerfully acquiesced, being used to it.

But when these Mexican lassies began to slam doors and throw things because they had heard that somebody was going to take photographs

of 'em while they were at the bath, they certainly demonstrated to the world that they have fallen behind in the march of civilization. Our very best social leaders fall for the seaside pictures and are ranked in the elite, it would seem, according to the fewness of duds which incumber their persons at the click of the shutter. And then there is Annette Kellerman, who suffers all the tortures of a bird in a gilded cage if they even hang as much as a pearl necklace upon her.

Thus it is apparent that it is ignorance, and nothing else, that stands between our perfect friendship and that of the Mexicans. As a palliative measure, our Americans along the border might refrain from lavishing themselves for a while, and thus go half way in the interests of peace.

BISHOP QUAYLE'S INTEMPERATE TALK

ST. LOUIS, Feb. 1.—"If we had a man at Washington for twenty minutes the trouble with Germany would be over," declared Bishop William A. Quayle of the Methodist Episcopal Church in discussing the new U-boat note today.

"Germany does not want war with us," he continued, "but she has imposed on President Wilson as long she thinks she can do it again. For more than a year and a half she has done what she now impudently announces she will do."

If the above remarks are true—and they bear every indication of being true, for they have not as yet been publicly repudiated by Bishop Quayle—that reverend gentleman has dropped from his high state as one of the reputed heads of Methodism, and has fallen into the slough of the ordinary ward politician who knowing no better, but of course fully understanding his surroundings, expresses a horseback opinion of anyone or anything as glibly as does the auctioneer in selling a horse or mule.

Bishop Quayle is a man to whom this section has heretofore looked up to—but if the above is his opinion—and he is so devoid of the elements which should teach him that President Wilson has done what the entire United States with but few exceptions thought was right in keeping us out of war—he has allowed himself to make a most unfortunate slip of the tongue as well as a slip of judgment—for his cloth alone should teach him as does his Bible that war and murder and butchery and wreck and desolation are not the things that his creed professes—no matter if he did not care to observe the proprieties and assail a much harassed and sorely tried president with the rail of a ward heeler.

RATTLES INSTEAD OF VOTES

"If this is a sample of the 'political strategy' of the Congressional Union, its members ought to be given rattles instead of votes. And it is an insult to the intelligence of every woman voter in the West to say that picketing the President in 1917 will have a good political effect."

This is the opinion of one of the leading suffragists of New York in speaking of the picketing of the White House by the members of the Congressional Union which has now been on for the last two weeks.

She goes on further and points to the fact that the President has nothing to do with a congressional amendment, could not veto it if he desired to do so, and that he will not be a candidate for the presidency in 1920. It is asserted that there might be reason in picketing the homes of congressmen who will again be candidates for office, but in annoying the President there does not seem to be any sense at all.

Without doubt the people generally, suffragists and anti-suffragists, will agree to the conclusions reached. The progress that woman suffrage has made in the United States is all owing to entirely different methods, and a variation from them is likely to do more harm to the "cause" than good.

The legislators at Jefferson City should have learned by this time that they should not pay attention to the attacks that the personally conducted News-Press makes on Senator James A. Campbell of this district. That sheet does not care what it says, if it can thereby defeat any proposed legislation by Senator Campbell—whom it hates with the hate that comes from the fact that it cannot control him—aided by the few satellites who as yet have not had their wings singed and still flutter about the News-Press candle. That personally conducted sheet has not lost an opportunity to revile and lambast Senator Campbell—and as before stated simply because he will not permit it to use him. And then again, Senator Campbell's associates should know that all of the "rot" sent out from Jefferson City to the News-Press is sent by just the same sort of a correspondent that the News-Press desires and maintains—one who pleaded guilty to robbery of the people of St. Joseph and Buchanan county, in the federal court in St. Joseph and whom the News-Press employs for its representative at Jefferson City—to give Senator Campbell all the odium that he can—and to forget that there should be honor in all things.

All Jingo newspapers are utilizing every possible effort to draw the United

States into war with Germany. These yellow journals should be suppressed—that is the only possible way in which to get rid of pests who care so little for the welfare of the people that they would force war simply to be in position to produce more "yellow" war news and thereby sell a few more papers. No decent citizen, no matter what his nationality, wants war. The United States does not want war with Germany, neither does Germany with us.

It is just as well that Frederick Palmer, the "great war correspondent," failed to reach St. Joseph Thursday in time for his "lecture." Palmer is a one-sided man and would have talked for his side. The people of St. Joseph do not need the Palmer sort of lectures, especially when it is a noted fact that no "war correspondent" of any nationality has ever been within nine miles of the firing line.

The expeditious and satisfactory way in which Judge A. D. Burnes handles his court is not only pleasing to the taxpayers and litigants, but it discloses the fact that he can conduct his sessions in the same way that a good business man runs his affairs. Judge Burnes is one of the ablest jurists and best judges in Missouri.

The action of the German-American National Alliance wherein it offers to raise troops to fight for the United States in the event of hostilities between Germany and the United States, should be a complete answer to those who from personal interests have doubted the loyalty of the German-Americans of this country.

A detained shipment of Chinese eggs gathered in 1914 has been permitted to go on to its destination at Seattle. It is said eggs of this age may be used in tanning leather, but it is not stated whether the usual process is inside or outside the human anatomical system.

Of course Teddy is to the front—and he wants to organize a division—and be in sole command. He does not say a word about taking a rifle and getting in the front rank. He prefers to follow his tactics at San Juan—and stay BEHIND the colored troops—as he did there.

It is almost silly the way that some of the yellow sheets play up idiotic stories calculated to inflame the people against the Germans of the United States. The Germans of this country, while they love the Fatherland, are a unit for the United States against all comers.

The spontaneous rally of all classes behind President Wilson in this crisis discloses that the people respect, admire, and will follow our great democratic president, no matter where he leads—for he would only lead them toward or in the paths of peace.

Dr. Delameter is not a resident or a taxpayer of St. Joseph, no matter if he holds the position of health officer—for which place it looks as though no St. Joseph physician had the brains or competency to fill.

Will the city council and the mayor and the city counselor now look into it and see if the city electrician, the city health officer, the landscape architect and the city librarian are holding office legally?

Having cleaned up \$476,000 in thirteen days in stock transactions, probably Mr. Baruch surveys the recent past with as much satisfaction as any witness before the "leak" committee.

Mrs. Ethel Byrne, the birth control advocate, says she will die for her cause if necessary. This may be easier for one who thinks there are too many people in the world anyway.

You never made anything by common lying—and you never will—that is why some people who hate some one at St. Joseph and hate someone else at Jefferson City get nowhere.

No matter what comes of the present trouble with Germany, one hundred million people of the United States, Germans included, are solidly behind President Wilson.

More lying dispatches are now being sent than ever before in the world's history. They are being sent to provoke war—and that is their sole purpose.

The people of Savannah and Andrew county have shown their public spiritedness by organizing a good roads club—which will do the work—and get results.

About the worst hit by the war situation is the stock jobbers and gamblers—and goodness knows no one cares how hard they are hit.

The suffragists forgot to picket the Tennessee capitol building and their bill perished in the state senate.

If Mr. Roosevelt had started for the Fiji Islands before the president

delivered his address to the senate he might have turned back to say something.

That vote of confidence by the United States Senate of the programme of President Wilson in the present crisis, is certainly one that cannot be misunderstood.

The grand jury quit when it indicted ninety-nine persons at Cincinnati for buying or selling votes. Did the jury want to spare the town the shame of 100?

Since one man has died in trying to demonstrate a cheap diet schedule, the rest of us must be very, very careful to eat enough—if we have the price.

An advocate of the daylight saving system calculates it will conserve \$40,000,000 to the country in a single season. The early bird is a wise old owl.

In this tense time in the history of the United States, there is but one thing for you to do—and that is your duty—be a true, loyal American.

St. Joseph has plenty of men who have brains and sense enough to conduct its affairs—without going outside to secure "talent."

That there will be no war—is the hope of every decent and honest man no matter what his politics or religion or nationality.

If witnesses are credible, Lawson heard more that wasn't so than most men ever do in the same length of time.

The president is one of many who think that a little golf may help in the determination of the gravest questions.

President Wilson will not change his policy in regard to Mexico and there is no sign of a change of policy anywhere in Mexico.

We will soon know whether the wisest ground hog knows any more about it than those foolish muskrats and beavers.

It is about time that St. Joseph automobile scorchers were put into the discard—and deep down at that.

It is not yet certain whether Carranza or Villa will boast of having chased the Americans out of Mexico.

The first seed catalogs are here and will help wonderfully to mitigate the severity of the later winter storms.

On being reminded that the human body is 75 per cent water, one is inclined to wring his hands.

No matter what comes, every citizen of the United States will be solidly behind President Wilson.

A revolution, a coup d'etat, in Costa Rica, and we are all mighty glad it was peaceful.

The robin will come and then the first package of free seeds, and it will be spring.

If only there could be legislation to make Alaska warm as well as "dry."

The fight grows hotter over the League to Enforce Peace.

No signs of a "leak" regarding the latest German note.

What the Missouri Editors Are Saying

An Election Without Victory

Or being elected by an official count might be called an election without victory.—Kansas City Post.

Is Now Without Any Reading

A certain Fairfax man has cut out all magazines which carry cigarette advertisements.—Fairfax Forum.

And That Quite Frequently

Brevity is the source of wit, and sometimes the origin of a punch on the nose.—Ralls County Record.

Hard to Do in Chicago

"Godsave" is the name of a student at a Chicago biblical institute. And we hope He will.—Ravenwood Gazette.

Was a Relief to Them

Anyhow, the German note was a relief to the majority members of the leak investigating committee.—Kansas City Times.

This Is the Real Truth

If you see an editor who pleases everybody, there will be a glass plate over his face and he will not be standing up.—Ravenwood Gazette.

Not Very Well in Hopkins

The moon is different from a town—it can be a "wet" one without bring-

ing forth denunciations from anti-Barleycornites.—Hopkins Journal.

A Trifle Long Drawn

But isn't it rather far-fetched to refer to the man who conspired to poison Mr. Lloyd George as a "conscientious" objector?—St. Louis Times.

Hughes Don't Believe It

Hiram Johnson says he is a gentleman in politics. We know one Chas. E. Hughes of New York who don't believe a word of it.—Booneville Advertiser.

That Editor's Wife Has

A Maryland woman still has a goose that was given her son on her twenty-first birthday. Lots of women still have the goose they got on their wedding day.—Elmo Register.

Hunt Is Also Congratulated

Mr. Campbell has been declared governor of Arizona and must serve his time. In the meantime Mr. Hunt is receiving the congratulations of his friends on his exonerations.—Kansas City Times.

That Is More to the Point

The U. S. Department of Agriculture has issued a bulletin telling housewives how to buy potatoes. A bulletin telling 'em how to pay for 'em would be more to the point.—Henry County Democrat.

Sorry You Feel Badly Teddy

The K. C. Star insists that T. R. is displeased with peace proposals, and if there is anything in auto-suggestion Uncle Sam will be a bully. Dear old Uncle Sam! It can never be.—Atchison County Mail.

Is a Wise Barber

E. W. Friend, who has been engaged in the barber business in St. Joseph for some time, has bought a farm of 134 acres near Braddyville, Iowa, and will move to it soon.—Burlington Junction Post.

Really Strange, Isn't It?

Yes, Theodore there are a good many people in the U. S. who think it is better to have Pershing coming out of Mexico than to be sending more and more soldiers in there. Strange, isn't it?—Linneus Bulletin.

Who Don't Like a Soft Soap?

No wonder there are nearly a thousand patriots in Jefferson City "looking for clerkships." It is human nature to want jobs where they have nothing to do, and get well paid for it.—Booneville Advertiser.

Respectfully Referred to Allen P. Marlin

The young lyceum speaker who was here a few weeks ago and told all of these jokes will please return our copy of "Wit and Humor of the Age," published in 1878.—Fairfax Forum.

That Cry Is Obsolete

The republican newspapers and spell-binders may continue their cry of "Poor Old Missouri," but the imperial state of Missouri will continue to grow and prosper under Democratic administrations.—Dade County Advocate.

"Democratic Free Trade" No Killer

Where sheep sell at public sales for \$14.50 to about \$15 per head and there are farmers on hand to buy them with cash, it doesn't look like the sheep industry was "killed" by the "democratic free trade."—Dade County Advocate.

Poor! Poor! Henry Pieper

Henry Pieper, poor man of the Henriette country, had to sacrifice his 1800 bushels of wheat for \$1.95 a bushel. And he is so sore over it he is refusing \$10 a bushel for his hundred bushels of clover seed.—Burlington Junction Post.

Thaw Should Have Hit Harder

Missouri has been given some advertising which is not of much value to us, by one Fred Gump of Kansas City. He hopes to make his efforts at playing the Gump with Harry Thaw pay. We rather think Harry didn't beat him quite hard enough.—Booneville Advertiser.

And What Did They Learn?

A total profit of \$11,076.71 made the football season of the University of Missouri the most profitable year in the gridiron sport that the department of athletics has ever had. The share of the University from the Missouri-Kansas Thanksgiving game at Lawrence, Kas., was \$11,480.36.—Platte County Gazette.

Not the Women Who Elected

Mr. Bryan indulges in a common error when he says that the voting women elected Wilson. If we could forget Illinois and one or two other suffrage states we might fall for that dope. We would also have to forget Hiram Johnson and his 150,000 disgusted California partisans who rejected Hughes.—St. Louis Times.

Making Up the Wet Deft

Chilliothe's new vehicle ordinance went into effect today. It was recently passed by the city council. The

new ordinance taxes all vehicles in use within the city limits. The tax on automobiles remains the same as heretofore, the tax being based on the horsepower of the car. Two-horse vehicles are taxed \$3 and single horse vehicles \$2.50. A traffic officer will take care of the collection on these licenses.—Nodaway Democrat-Forum.

And This Under Democratic Rule

Under the Democratic administration you can get more for one hog than you formerly could for an ordinary horse. Last week Ed. McNeely bought a hog from R. A. Long of the northeast part of the county, for which he paid \$52. The hog weighed 520 pounds and Ed. paid 10c a pound for it. The same week Ed. sold to J. R. (Bots) Whitaker a hog that weighed 520 pounds at 10c a pound, which netted him \$52.—Milan Standard.

The Style Down at Maysville

Two of our fellow citizens got into a little altercation last week, with the result that the smaller citizen of the two laid out the bigger with a crack on the head with a stove shaker. While the bigger probably objected to this particular method of being pacified, the treatment seemed to have the desired effect, the gentleman who was hit not getting back into commission until sometime the next day. The stove shaker was not broken.—Maysville Pilot.

Mighty Cheap in Ohio

We note in a dispatch that the price paid for votes in Cincinnati, Ohio, at the last election was \$1 per vote. We can not give any detailed information or absolute proof, but—er, ah, ahem, we understand that the Cincinnati voter could, 'er ah, ahem, materially better his sales in Sullivan county on election days; in fact, some say it would almost pay the Cincinnati voters to move to Sullivan county and make this their permanent homes.—Milan Standard.

When Jep Fixed the People

The opening of the St. Louis free bridge reminds us that several years ago during the jockeying for terminals, the promoters for a street railway contracted with Jep Howe to put through an ordinance for \$300,000. Howe delivered the goods, but the people refused to vote the bonds to complete the bridge until the ordinance was repealed. And this is the same Jep Howe who directed Lamm's campaign and then framed up his contest.—Henry County Democrat.

Was All That He Needed

The body of an unknown man was found on the old Hannibal bridge in Kansas City the other night. The only mark of identification was a Republican registration receipt made out shortly before the late November election. The fact that it was a Republican receipt precluded the enterprising Kansas City Star from interviewing the corpse and reporting that he voted the Democratic ticket at the last election four hundred and seventy-five times.—Lexington News.

Bryan and Champ Clark

Charlie Bryan announces the candidacy of his brother, Wm. J. Bryan, for president in 1920 on a "dry" platform. An announcement of Champ Clark's probable candidacy the day before hastened this action upon the part of the Bryans. It was Bryan who defeated Missouri's candidate, Silver Dick Bland, at Chicago, and it was Bryan who ran the dagger into the heart of Clark at Baltimore, and it seems the dagger is still held in the Bryan family for further attacks upon Missouri's candidate.—Booneville Advertiser.

The Ravings of Raving Roosy

Poor old Teddy Roosevelt is still growing. He is now opposing President Wilson's late address to the United States senate on the subject of the world's peace. Teddy has been willing to sacrifice himself on his country's altar, if he could get a major-generalship in the United States army. But that man Wilson has knocked Teddy's ambition into a cocked hat and Teddy is madder "nor a wet hen." Let Teddy rave. The people have about gotten him sized up to his proper place.—Platte County Landmark.

Should Look After Alex Gibb

Governor Fred. Gardner has so far shown in his appointments that they are to be made with only one object in view, and that is to get the best man for the place, and if he continues this policy Alex. Gibb of our county stands a fine chance of being Missouri's next game and fish commissioner. Alex. Gibb is not only well qualified for the place he is now seeking but has proved that he does well what is given him to do by repeatedly being the choice of our people for county treasurer, which office he held ten years. If the Governor can find a better man than this efficient and well-liked gentleman of Scotch-Irish descent—our own Alex. Gibb—we would like to meet him.—Atchison County Mail.